Discussion with Iran on International Terrorism

1273. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Iran the Prime Minister discussed with Iran Government the question of International terrorism in the context of the Talibans of Afghanistan perpetrating terrorism in Kashmir in Leage with Pakistan;

(b) if so, what specific aspects of the problem which were discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof and the agreement or understanding, if any, reached with Iran in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Prime Minister paid an official visit to Iran, a country with which India shares deep historical ties and civilisational and cultural affinities, from 10-13 April, 2001. During his visit both sides discussed issues relating to cooperation on bilateral, regional and international matters.

Prime Minister spoke forcefully regarding the dangers of terrorism, including cross border terrorism, to regional peace and stability. Consequently, in the 'Tehran Declaration' and Joint Statement issued during the visit, both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and recognised the threat to nation states and international peace and stability from international terrorism and extremism. Prime Minister and President Khatami also condemned states that aid, abet and directly support international terrorism.

On Afghanistan, while agreeing that a military solution to the civil conflict in Afghanistan was not possible, Prime Minister and President Khatami expressed deep concern over the growth of extremism and threat of terrorism and illegal trade in narcotics emanating from the area of extremists. Both sides agreed to enhance mutual cooperation for safeguarding peace and stability

in the region, which was witnessing the rise of extremist forces, terrorism and increased flow of illicit drugs.

Russian stand on N.M.D. System

1274. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during recent visit Russian Foreign Minister to New Delhi, Government discussed it stand generally welcoming the US-President's plan to deploy a National Missile Defence (NMD) system;

(b) if so, what was the Russian stand with respect to the US plan for an NMD system and what was the outcome of the discussions in regard to the impact of the NMD Plan on World Peace and the Non-Proliferation regime; and

(c) whether the US statement in question has added that the US has no intention of taking a unilateral decision and intends to hold consultations with Russia, China and India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) During talks, Foreign Minister Ivanov comprehensively explained Russia's views on President Bush's Statement of 1st May 2001 and added, in that context, that the Indian and Russian "approaches mostly coincide". He said that Russia welcomed consultations launched by the US and looked forward to meetings with the US with proposals of its own, including President Putin's comprehensive proposal about reductions in strategic offensive weapons and ballistic missile defences. India stated that the 1972 ABM Treaty should not be abrogated unilaterally.

(c) Yes, Sir. These consultations have subsequently been held during the months of May and June, and may continue.